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Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Marvin D. Perry
Director

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Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in May

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 5.4 percent, up 0.1 of a percentage point from April's estimate of 5.3 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents increased by 600 in May to 30,900. A year ago May, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level stood at 27,000. The national unemployment rate rose 0.1 of a percentage point in May to a nine-year high of 6.1 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for twenty-two consecutive months.

"Despite the slight increase in May's unemployment rate, the Rhode Island economy continues to fare better than the nation," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry. "While the national unemployment rate climbed to a nine-year high and much of the country continues to lose jobs, Rhode Island managed to add 1,200 jobs over the month."

Rhode Island Job Highlights

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of payroll jobs was 481,100 in May, up 1,200 from the April (revised) level, and up 2,400 from last year. Within the Private sector, monthly employment gains in Construction (+500), Other Services (+500) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+200) offset losses in other industries, most notably Leisure & Hospitality (-300) and Manufacturing (-200). Government employment was down 100 over the month.

Our unadjusted estimates show the number of jobs at Rhode Island businesses stood at 484,900 in May 2003, up (+1,100) from the 483,800 jobs reported last year. Employment gains in Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,000), Other Services (+1,700), Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+800) and Retail Trade (+700), overshadowed losses in Manufacturing (-2,300) and Accommodation & Food Services (-1,600). (Continued on Page 4)

New Maximum Weekly Benefit Rates for Unemployed Individuals Announced

New maximum weekly benefit rates of \$441 for Unemployment Insurance, and \$561 for Temporary Disability Insurance, will be in effect for claimants whose Benefit Years begin on or after July 1, 2003, announced Marvin D. Perry, Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

These new rates reflect an increase of \$14 for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and \$18 for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI). The previous maximum rates were \$427 for UI and \$543 for TDI. Individuals who established claims for regular Unemployment Insurance benefits prior to July 1, 2003 will continue to be paid at their present rate for the duration of their Benefit Year. A Benefit Year is the 52-week period that starts once a new claim is filed.

The maximum rate for Unemployment Insurance benefits is set at 67 percent of the average weekly wage of workers covered by the Employment Security Act. The average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act in calendar year 2002 was \$659.54. Sixty-seven percent of that average weekly wage is \$441.89. After rounding down to the next lower dollar amount, the new maximum for Unemployment Insurance will be \$441.

The maximum weekly benefit rate for Temporary Disability Insurance is set at 85 percent of the average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act. Accordingly, the new maximum for Temporary Disability Insurance is \$561 (85 percent of \$659.54 rounded to the next highest dollar amount).

New Maximum Benefit Rates Effective July 1, 2003

UI	\$441
TDI	\$561

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	May 03	Apr 03	May 02	May 03	Apr 03	May 02
Civilian Labor Force	572.1	569.2	553.7	565.2	562.5	546.9
Resident Employment	541.2	538.8	526.8	536.3	534.5	521.9
Unemployment	30.9	30.3	27.0	28.9	28.0	25.0
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.3%	4.9%	5.1%	5.0%	4.6%

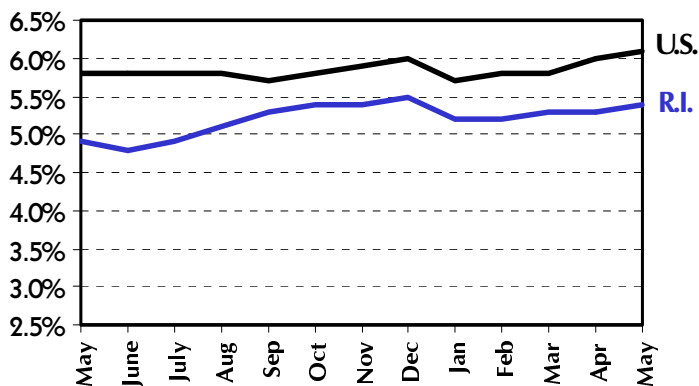
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	May 03	Apr 03	May 02	May 03	Apr 03	May 02
Civilian Labor Force	146,485	146,473	144,911	146,067	145,925	144,527
Resident Employment	137,487	137,687	136,487	137,567	137,424	136,559
Unemployment	8,998	8,786	8,424	8,500	8,501	7,969
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.0%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.5%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2002 - 2003



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	May 03	May 02**
Barrington	2.7	2.8
Bristol	4.1	3.6
Burrillville	5.2	4.8
Central Falls	8.9	8.2
Charlestown	4.1	4.8
Coventry	4.4	4.6
Cranston	5.2	4.5
Cumberland	4.4	4.2
East Greenwich	5.4	4.7
East Providence	5.0	4.9
Exeter	3.9	3.8
Foster	5.2	4.3
Glocester	4.2	3.1
Hopkinton	3.2	2.0
Jamestown	3.2	3.4
Johnston	5.7	4.9
Lincoln	5.0	4.4
Little Compton	2.4	3.0
Middletown	3.6	4.0
Narragansett	2.4	2.1
New Shoreham	7.3	6.6
Newport	4.4	3.5
North Kingstown	3.6	3.5
North Providence	5.1	4.0
North Smithfield	4.2	2.9
Pawtucket	6.2	6.0
Portsmouth	3.1	3.8
Providence	7.3	6.3
Richmond	2.3	2.9
Scituate	5.6	4.1
Smithfield	3.9	3.9
South Kingstown	3.3	3.2
Tiverton	4.4	4.1
Warren	4.0	3.9
Warwick	4.7	4.0
West Greenwich	5.1	4.6
West Warwick	5.9	4.7
Westerly	3.4	2.3
Woonsocket	6.6	5.7
State of R.I.	5.1	4.6

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	May 2003	Apr 2003	May 2002	% Change		Year to Date		
				Apr 03	May 02	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	5,302	7,895	5,642	-32.8%	-6.0%	40,495	36,892	9.8%
Number of Payments	48,542	60,586	51,165	-19.9%	-5.1%	336,604	339,386	-0.8%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.6	\$18.1	\$15.4	-19.4%	-5.3%	\$101.9	\$101.5	0.4%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,545	1,827	1,658	-15.4%	-6.8%	8,065	8,023	0.5%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$241.2	\$194.8	\$288.7	23.8%	-16.5%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or fax (401) 462-8766.

*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island*

May 2003

*Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.*

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	May 2003	Apr 2003	May 2002	Apr 2003	May 2002
Total Nonfarm	484.9	478.9	483.8	6,000	1,100
Goods Producing	81.1	80.1	83.0	1,000	-1,900
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Construction	20.2	19.1	19.8	1,100	400
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.6	12.4	12.9	200	-300
Manufacturing	60.7	60.8	63.0	-100	-2,300
Durable Goods	39.3	39.5	41.4	-200	-2,100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.5	8.7	9.0	-200	-500
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.1	5.4	0	-300
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.5	11.7	12.3	-200	-800
Jewelry & Silverware	8.6	8.9	9.0	-300	-400
Non-Durable Goods	21.4	21.3	21.6	100	-200
Chemical Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Service Providing	403.8	398.8	400.8	5,000	3,000
Wholesale Trade	17.1	16.9	16.6	200	500
Retail Trade	53.0	52.5	52.3	500	700
Grocery Stores	6.2	6.3	6.2	-100	0
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	0
General Merchandise Stores	10.5	10.5	10.8	0	-300
Department Stores	4.6	4.5	4.9	100	-300
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.1	6.1	5.9	0	200
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.8	11.5	11.0	300	800
Transportation & Warehousing	10.6	10.3	9.9	300	700
Information	11.3	11.2	11.2	100	100
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.4	0	0
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.6	32.6	32.4	0	200
Finance & Insurance	27.0	27.0	26.3	0	700
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.1	12.1	11.8	0	300
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.9	10.9	10.8	0	100
Professional & Technical Services	18.3	18.3	19.1	0	-800
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.7	6.7	6.4	0	300
Administrative & Waste Services	23.3	22.6	23.9	700	-600
Educational Services	20.3	20.5	20.4	-200	-100
Colleges & Universities	14.1	14.5	14.4	-400	-300
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.7	70.5	68.7	200	2,000
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.7	20.4	19.8	300	900
Hospitals	22.3	22.3	22.0	0	300
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.7	17.8	17.3	-100	400
Social Assistance	10.0	10.0	9.6	0	400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8.1	7.1	7.6	1,000	500
Accommodation & Food Services	40.4	39.2	42.0	1,200	-1,600
Accommodation	4.3	4.0	4.3	300	0
Food Services & Drinking Places	36.1	35.2	37.7	900	-1,600
Other Services	23.2	22.7	21.5	500	1,700
Government	67.0	66.5	67.7	500	-700
Federal Government	10.2	10.3	10.2	-100	0
State Government	18.0	18.0	18.6	0	-600
Local Government	38.8	38.2	38.9	600	-100
Local Education	25.7	25.2	25.8	500	-100
Local Non-Ed	13.1	13.0	13.1	100	0

*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm.

Some subcategories are not additive.

Rhode Island Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in May (Continued from Page 1)

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 6,000 over the month due to seasonal increases in several industries, the largest attributed to gains in Accommodation & Food Services (+1,200), Construction (+1,100), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+1,000), and Administrative & Waste Services (+700). A small seasonal decrease was reported in Private Colleges & Universities (-400).

The \$12.87 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers in May 2003 represents an over-the-month gain of three cents per hour and a yearly gain of fifteen cents per hour. In May 2003, Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.0 hours per week, up four-tenths of an hour over the month and two-tenths of an hour over the year.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	May 03	Apr 03	May 02	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	183.5	183.8	179.8	2.1%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Providence netWORKri has Moved!

In order to serve customers better, the Providence netWORKri One-Stop Center is relocating to One Reservoir Avenue, Providence (next door to Mastro Electric). Opening day is Monday, June 23rd. Center hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Come visit us at our new location! You can reach us at (401)462-8900 or www.networkri.org.

New! Rhode Island Job Vacancy Survey

The Labor Market Information unit is launching its first Rhode Island Job Vacancy Survey (JVS)! The survey will help serve as a measure of employer demand for workers in local communities and allow for an analysis of job vacancy characteristics, including full or part-time status, wages and benefits offered, and education and experience requirements.

As an employer, statistics generated by the Job Vacancy Survey will prove useful to human resource personnel and company management in determining hiring competition, setting wage levels and prioritizing human resource needs. When combined with other statistics, job vacancy data can provide a good indicator of labor market tightness, labor force shortages and the overall health of state and local labor markets for businesses, jobseekers, policymakers and workforce development personnel.

Nearly 2,000 establishments have been selected to participate. If you receive a copy of the survey, please assist us by completing the form and returning it as soon as possible - your response is essential in order for us to provide timely and accurate job vacancy data. If you have a question regarding the Job Vacancy Survey, please call Nick Ucci at (401) 462-8429 or visit our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm for a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted May 2003

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	May 03	Apr 03	May 02	Apr 03	May 02	May 03	Apr 03	May 02	May 03	Apr 03	May 02
Manufacturing	60.7	60.8	63.0	-100	-2300	39.0	38.6	38.8	12.87	12.84	12.72
Durable Goods	39.3	39.5	41.4	-200	-2100	37.6	37.4	38.4	12.86	12.84	12.69
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.5	8.7	9.0	-200	-500	38.3	37.3	38.2	11.48	11.43	11.33
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.1	5.1	5.4	0	-300	39.7	40.1	41.8	13.61	13.62	13.78
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0	38.2	36.3	39.7	9.49	9.41	9.61
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0	41.3	41.7	40.9	15.43	15.47	15.37
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.5	11.7	12.3	-200	-800	36.2	36.3	38.7	10.42	10.45	10.41
Jewelry and Silverware	8.6	8.9	9.0	-300	-400	36.6	36.8	39.9	9.89	9.91	9.91
Non-Durable Goods	21.4	21.3	21.6	100	-200	41.3	40.6	39.5	12.89	12.83	12.78
Chemical Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200	40.5	40.2	41.4	15.56	15.53	15.67
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0	38.6	38.9	40.0	14.60	14.58	14.40